
SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is pleased to present the Toxics Release Inventory Report for the reporting year 2001. I am happy to report that on-site releases reported under TRI have declined 15% since 2000 and 30% when compared with 1998. I am optimistic that with the continued collective efforts of government, industry, and the public, we can continue this trend.

The TRI program continues to gather strength. For the second year in a row, changes to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) requirements have increased reporting on certain chemicals referred to as Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics (PBT's). Because of the characteristics which identify them as PBT's, these substances are of increased concern. For calendar year 2000, lower reporting thresholds were established for all PBT's covered under TRI. For 2001, the thresholds were also lowered specifically for lead and lead compounds.

I urge you to take advantage of the information in this report and the opportunity this report presents to learn about the management of chemicals in your community. TRI was implemented as part of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). One of the primary principles of EPCRA is community involvement. As citizens, you have the right to know, but whether you take advantage of that right is up to you. The TRI report is published to better inform citizens about the environment in their community, and we continually strive to improve the format and readability of this report for the public.

It remains our pledge to hold steadfast to the commitment of improving the environment for all citizens. We recognize that portions of our state are highly industrialized and that we must utilize every opportunity to continue to reduce toxics in our environment. Progress has been made, but we also encourage our industrial citizens to continue to reduce releases below today's levels and focus on providing a safer and more healthful environment for our future.

The data in this report are available in an easy-to-use, searchable format through the public information internet link at: www2.state.de.us/serc/public.htm. The "For Further Information" section of this report provides details about this specific information as well as many other DNREC and EPA Internet sites devoted to community right-to-know.

Sincerely,

John A. Hughes, Secretary
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
